



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 21, 2015

ITEM NUMBER: **CC-8**

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR THE "SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM".

DATE: JUNE 25, 2015

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT- FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION
SPECIAL SERVICES BUREAU (TRAFFIC SAFETY)

PRESENTATION BY: Sergeant Bryan Wadkins, Special Police Services

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sergeant Bryan Wadkins (714) 754-5125

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Adopt Resolution which authorizes the CEO or his designee to accept the grant awards from the California Office of Traffic Safety for: the "Selective Traffic Enforcement Program" (STEP).
2. Approve Budget Adjustment #16-002 for the total amount of \$150,000 to increase revenue and appropriation for overtime and professional development associated with the 2016 OTS STEP grant.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration distributes federal funding to California through the Office of Traffic Safety. Grants are used to mitigate traffic safety program deficiencies, expand on-going programs, or to develop a new program. Grant funding cannot replace existing program expenditures, nor can traffic safety funds be used for program maintenance, research, rehabilitation, or construction. The Police Department has been awarded several of these grants in the past and these funds have significantly assisted the objectives of the Traffic Safety Bureau and improved traffic safety for residents and visitors in the City of Costa Mesa.

ANALYSIS:

Since 2005, the Office of Traffic Safety has awarded the Costa Mesa Police Department nine (9) traffic safety related grants. The funds associated with these grants have been used to purchase specialized equipment and to pay the cost of personnel working targeted traffic operations.

The Office of Traffic Safety assembles collision data rankings based on city population numbers. Costa Mesa is ranked with 56 other cities with a population of 100,001-250,000. In relation to other cities in our group, Costa Mesa has the 5th worst fatal/injury collisions, 6th worst DUI collisions, 2nd worst bicycle collisions and the 5th worst motorcycle collisions. Based upon these 2012 statistical rankings, OTS ranked Costa Mesa as the 3rd worst City for over-all traffic safety based upon collision data, when compared to other cities in our population group. 2012 is the most recent year of these compiled stats.

Along with injury collisions, impaired driving enforcement has always been a top priority for the Police Department. Since 1986, the Department has staffed a full-time impaired driving enforcement team consisting of two full-time officers. However, based upon recent Police Department staffing issues the full-time DUI Team was discontinued in year (2014). The previous STEP Grant has been used to supplement the loss of the DUI Team by funding a two-officer team on Friday and Saturday nights. If not for this grant, our ability to address DUI drivers would have been severely compromised.

Aside from the DUI enforcement team, the STEP Grant funds DUI checkpoints. These checkpoints are educational, highly visible, and provide a deterrent against impaired driving. Our department's commitment to DUI enforcement is evident in the OTS data rankings. In that study, Costa Mesa had the best ranking for DUI arrests (847) in 2012 out of 53 other cities in our population group (*that years data had a full-time DUI team*).

Police Department staff submitted applications for and has received tentative approval for this 2016 grant offered through the California Office of Traffic Safety. The grant will allow the Police Department to implement the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). This program will provide a comprehensive approach to reducing violations which commonly lead to collisions, while maintaining a focus on impaired and suspended/unlicensed drivers. Grant funds will be used to staff Sobriety/Driver License Checkpoints and to staff targeted enforcement operations. In addition, funds will be used to support additional law enforcement training related to DUI investigations and enforcement activities. The implementation of this training, along with the STEP enforcement operations, will help achieve the overall goal of reducing injury collisions, saving lives and reducing liability.

The Police Department's current grant expires on September 30, 2015. This year's grant will enable the Police Department to build upon successes achieved to date, while providing new objectives for increasing traffic safety throughout the City. The funding will allow the Police Department additional resources to combat impaired driving, and enforce traffic laws aimed at saving lives. Objectives of the OTS grant include DUI saturation patrols; traffic enforcement operations targeting red light, excessive speed, and distracted driving violations; enforcement at high collision intersections; and Sobriety/Driver License checkpoints.

Some specific project objectives from the grant agreement include:

- To conduct five (5) DUI/DL checkpoints.
- To conduct forty-four (44) DUI saturation patrols.
- To conduct five (5) special traffic enforcement operations targeting red light, excessive speed and other violations at or near intersections with a disproportionate number of traffic collisions..
- To conduct three (3) special enforcement operations targeting distracted driving violations.

- To conduct two (2) bicycle and pedestrian safety enforcement operations.
- Provide advanced officer training in DUI enforcement to ten (10) officers.

To receive the grant funds, the Office of Traffic Safety requires the City Council adopt a Resolution agreeing to support the grant goals in their entirety. Office of Traffic Safety grant funding is based on the federal fiscal year, which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. The grant agreement provides total funds in the amount of \$150,000 which will be utilized over a 12-month period of time, from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

None

FISCAL REVIEW:

The attached budget adjustment #16-002 increases revenue and appropriates the total expected grant funds of \$150,000 to the Police Department’s budget for overtime, professional development and other direct costs. The grant period is from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney’s Office has reviewed the Grant Agreement and associated documents and has approved it as to form and content.

CONCLUSION:

Based upon an analysis of the Grant Agreement and the available benefits to the City offered by the award of the grant, Department staff supports the approval of the above listed recommendation.

 BRYAN WADKINS

 Traffic Sergeant
 Police Special Services Bureau

 ROBERT SHARPNACK

 Chief of Police

 STEVE DUNIVENT

 Finance Director

 THOMAS DUARTE

 City Attorney

DISTRIBUTION: City Manager
 City Attorney
 Finance Director
 City Clerk

Grant
Administrator

- ATTACHMENTS:
- 1 [Resolution of the City Council](#)
 - 2 [Budget Adjustment #15-007](#)
 - 3 [Office of Traffic Safety Grant Agreement](#)